

What is claimed is:

1. System for protecting the loading space of vehicles, in particular passenger cars, having sensors for sensing loaded material in the loading space, means for sensing the state of protective devices in the loading space and means for generating a loading space state signal as a function of the sensing of loaded material and the sensing of the state of the protective devices.

2. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein sensors are provided for sensing loaded material in terms of its position, size and/or weight.

3. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the sensors for sensing loaded material are components of a vehicle protection system.

4. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein the means for sensing the state of protective devices have a transmitter or receiver which is arranged on a mobile protective device, and a receiver or transmitter which is arranged on the vehicle.

5. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein protective devices are automatically placed in a predefined position as a function of the loading space state signal.

6. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein protective devices are moved automatically into a predefined position as a function of the loading space state signal and the current velocity and/or driving situation of the vehicle.

7. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 6, wherein a separating means between the loading space and passenger compartment is displaced, pretensioned or extended in or counter to a longitudinal direction of the vehicle as a function of the loading space state signal and the current velocity and/or driving situation of the vehicle.

8. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 1, wherein protective devices in the loading space of the vehicle can be moved into a protective position as a function of the loading space state signal and in response to a request signal.

9. System for protecting the loading space according to Claim 8, wherein the request signal is triggered by a user or by sensors which sense environmental conditions such as precipitation and/or quality of the ground, in the surroundings of the vehicle.